

Amendments to the Claims:

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Please cancel claims 1-6 and 10-11, and amend claims 8 and 9 as follows:

1-6. (Canceled herein).

7. (Previously presented) In an analytical method for characterizing the structure of a catechol estrogen by electrospray tandem mass spectrometry, the improvement which comprises derivatizing the catechol estrogen with ferrocenyl boronate.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~analytical method according to~~ improvement of claim 7, wherein the catechol estrogen is 2-hydroxyestradiol.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~analytical method according to~~ improvement of claim 7, wherein the catechol estrogen is 4-hydroxyestradiol.

10-11. (Canceled herein).